

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 1 further~~ claim 46, comprising:  
routing the pre-planned alternative route through a transit zone.
3. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claims 2 further~~ claim 46, comprising:  
requesting new paths to be established between ~~zones~~ the source zone and the destination zone.
4. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 3 wherein~~ claim 47, comprising:  
requesting new paths to be established between the source zone and the destination zone, wherein  
the new paths meet ~~the pre-planned alternative route is configured based on~~  
the class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 1 further~~ claim 46, comprising:  
establishing new paths ~~to be established between zones~~ between the source zone and the destination zone.
7. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 6 wherein~~ claim 47, comprising:  
establishing new paths between the source zone and the destination zone, wherein

the ~~new paths meet pre-planned alternative route is configured based on~~ the class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone.

8-45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently amended) A method ~~for restoring a path in a communication system between zones~~ comprising:

establishing an inter-zone link between ~~[[with]]~~ a first border node of a source zone and ~~[[with]]~~ a second border node of a ~~[[n]]~~ destination zone, wherein

the source zone and the destination zone execute separate copies of a topology distribution algorithm;

identifying an inter-zone link failure between the source zone and the destination zone;

identifying a pre-planned alternative route;

informing a node in the destination zone of the pre-planned alternative route;

informing a node in the source zone of the pre-planned alternative route; and

providing communication between the destination zone and the source zone via the pre-planned alternative route.

47. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein:

the inter-zone link meets class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone; and

the pre-planned alternative route meets the class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone.

48. **(New)** A network element comprising:  
a processor configured to  
    establish an inter-zone link between a first border node of a source zone and a  
    second border node of a destination zone, wherein  
    the source zone and the destination zone execute separate copies of a  
    topology distribution algorithm;  
    identify an inter-zone link failure between the source zone and the destination  
    zone;  
    identify a pre-planned alternative route;  
    inform a node in the destination zone of the pre-planned alternative route;  
    inform a node in the source zone of the pre-planned alternative route; and  
    provide communication between the destination zone and the source zone via the  
    pre-planned alternative route.
49. **(New)** The network element of claim 48, wherein the processor is configured to:  
route the pre-planned alternative route through a transit zone.
50. **(New)** The network element of claim 48, wherein the processor is configured to:  
request new paths to be established between the source zone and the destination zone.
51. **(New)** The network element of claim 48, wherein the processor is configured to:  
establish new paths between the source zone and the destination zone.
52. **(New)** The network element of claim 48, wherein:  
the inter-zone link meets class of service requirements between the source zone and the  
destination zone; and

the pre-planned alternative route meets the class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone.

53. **(New)** The network element of claim 52, wherein the processor is configured to:  
request new paths to be established between the source zone and the destination zone,  
wherein  
the new paths are meet the class of service requirements between the source zone  
and the destination zone.
54. **(New)** The network element of claim 52, wherein the processor is configured to:  
establish new paths between the source zone and the destination zone, wherein  
the new paths meet the class of service requirements between the source zone and  
the destination zone.
55. **(New)** A system comprising:  
means for establishing an inter-zone link between a first border node of a source zone and  
a second border node of a destination zone, wherein  
the source zone and the destination zone execute separate copies of a topology  
distribution algorithm;  
means for identifying an inter-zone link failure between the source zone and the  
destination zone;  
means for identifying a pre-planned alternative route;  
a processor configured to inform a node in the destination zone of the pre-planned  
alternative route;  
means for informing a node in the source zone of the pre-planned alternative route; and  
means for providing communication between the destination zone and the source zone  
via the pre-planned alternative route.

56. (New) The system of claim 55, comprising:  
means for routing the pre-planned alternative route through a transit zone.
57. (New) The system of claim 55, comprising:  
means for requesting new paths to be established between the source zone and the destination zone.
58. (New) The system of claim 55, comprising:  
means for establishing new paths between the source zone and the destination zone.
59. (New) The system of claim 55, wherein:  
the inter-zone link meets class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone; and  
the pre-planned alternative route meets the class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone.
60. (New) The system of claim 59, comprising:  
means for requesting new paths to be established between the source zone and the destination zone, wherein  
the new paths are meet the class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone.
61. (New) The system of claim 59, comprising:  
means for establishing new paths between the source zone and the destination zone, wherein  
the new paths meet the class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone.

62. **(New)** A tangible computer-readable storage medium having instructions encoded therein, wherein the instructions are executable by a processor to perform acts comprising:
- establishing an inter-zone link between a first border node of a source zone and a second border node of a destination zone, wherein
  - the source zone and the destination zone execute separate copies of a topology distribution algorithm;
  - identifying an inter-zone link failure between the source zone and the destination zone;
  - identifying a pre-planned alternative route;
  - informing a node in the destination zone of the pre-planned alternative route;
  - informing a node in the source zone of the pre-planned alternative route; and
  - providing communication between the destination zone and the source zone via the pre-planned alternative route.
63. **(New)** The computer-readable storage medium of claim 62, wherein the instructions are executable by the processor to perform acts comprising:
- routing the pre-planned alternative route through a transit zone.
64. **(New)** The computer-readable storage medium of claim 62, wherein the instructions are executable by the processor to perform acts comprising:
- requesting new paths to be established between the source zone and the destination zone.
65. **(New)** The computer-readable storage medium of claim 62, wherein the instructions are executable by the processor to perform acts comprising:
- establishing new paths between the source zone and the destination zone.
66. **(New)** The computer-readable storage medium of claim 62, wherein:
- the inter-zone link meets class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone; and

the pre-planned alternative route meets the class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone.

67. **(New)** The computer-readable storage medium of claim 66, wherein the instructions are executable by the processor to perform acts comprising:

requesting new paths to be established between the source zone and the destination zone, wherein

the new paths are meet the class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone.

68. **(New)** The computer-readable storage medium of claim 66, wherein the instructions are executable by the processor to perform acts comprising:

establishing new paths between the source zone and the destination zone, wherein

the new paths meet the class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone.